



Virginia  
Breast Cancer  
Foundation

# Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation Advocacy Day

## VBCF Legislative Priorities for 2026

### **HB1207 / SB2: ESTABLISHING A PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM IN VIRGINIA | PATRONS: DEL. SEWELL & SEN. BOYSKO**

Treatment for breast cancer is often a months-long process, requiring surgery, hospitalization, intense chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and multiple medical appointments - all requiring time off from work. Yet today, **roughly 3.5 million working Virginians - 73% of the workforce - lack access to paid family and medical leave.** HB1207/SB2 would ensure that workers can take up to 12 weeks of paid time off from work to address serious health conditions or care for their loved ones. Simply put, paid medical leave in VA would allow breast cancer patients to focus on their cancer treatment and recovery without facing the added burden of financial instability.

### **HB625/SB161: TRANSPARENCY TO HELP PATIENTS MANAGE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS | PATRONS: DEL. HENSON & SEN. PERRY**

Patients who require specialty tier medications for complex or chronic conditions are often required to pay a co-insurance that could be **thousands of dollars for a single month's supply of medication.** High-cost specialty medications include many newer, targeted breast cancer therapies, immunotherapy, and those used to treat Stage IV metastatic breast cancer.

HB625/SB161 would require that health insurance carriers give patients an option to select a capped, flat-dollar co-pay-only health insurance plan, helping make costs stable and predictable. This plan choice would ensure that co-pays for any covered medication within that plan would not exceed \$100 per prescription per month in Silver/Gold/Platinum plans or \$150 per prescription per month in Bronze plans.

### **HB435: CREATION OF A PALLIATIVE CARE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PALLIATIVE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL PATRON: DEL. LEVERE BOLLING**

This bill will expand access to palliative care and timely information and support. Palliative care for breast cancer can improve quality of life by managing symptoms, side effects, and stress from diagnosis and treatment, offering support for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs for patients and families. Palliative care can be provided alongside curative treatments from the start, not just at the end of life.

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### **HB90: INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR HAIR PRESERVATION | PATRON: DEL. SEIBOLD**

Women going through treatment for breast cancer are often interested in using scalp cooling caps to help prevent hair loss during their treatment, but they cannot afford the hefty price tag. **Without insurance coverage, patients must pay out of pocket, which ranges from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per course of chemotherapy - a cost out of reach for many.** This bill would require health insurance carriers offering policies in the large group market to provide coverage for scalp cooling systems for the preservation of hair during cancer chemotherapy treatment.

### **BUDGET PRIORITIES**

*VBCF supports the following budget amendments to protect and expand free breast and cervical cancer screenings, support statewide efforts to reduce the burden of cancer, and make health insurance more affordable for Virginians.*

### **VIRGINIA CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

**SB30: ITEM 281 #7S | CHIEF PATRON: SEN. PERRY; CO-PATRON: SEN. FAVOLA**

**HB30: ITEM 280 #8H | CHIEF PATRON: DEL. MCQUINN**

These amendments provide funding to sustain and expand the Department of Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. Funding would allow the Department to serve more low-income women through the **Every Woman's Life (EWL) free breast and cervical cancer screening program**, as well as support the **Virginia Cancer Registry** and the **Virginia Cancer Plan** to reduce the burden of cancer in Virginia through prevention, early detection, effective treatment, and quality of life.

### **ENHANCED TAX CREDITS**

**SB30: ITEM 478 #3S: | CHIEF PATRON: SEN. DEEDS**

This amendment provides **funding to replace the federal enhanced tax credits, which expired on December 31, 2025**, for health insurance plans purchased through the Virginia marketplace.



### **Policy Contact:**

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